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SWISS WATCH

BOSTON BRUINS FORWARD TYLER SEGUIN IS MAKING THE BEST OF THE NHL LOCKOUT BY PLYING HIS TRADE IN THE SWISS LEAGUE PAGE 16

REGINA metro®
Wednesday, November 28, 2012
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Young Rider fan snubbed

Enemy territory. Teen who was kept out of Grey Cup pep rally in Calgary school has since received apology

A young student in Alberta has taken Rider pride to a whole new level.

Calgary's Catholic school district has apologized to Alesandra Behr and her parents after she was temporarily withheld from a Grey Cup pep rally for wearing a Saskatchewan Roughriders jersey.

Behr, 13, said the vice-principal at her school in the city's northwest initially informed her that she would be barred from the festivities last Friday unless she changed.

"I thought it was really stupid," Behr said, prior to estimating she spent 45 minutes in the principal's office before the miscommunication was sorted out. "I don't feel like it's right, what they did ... they say stand up for what you believe in, and when they tell you that's not right, you feel like you have done something wrong."

After learning what had happened, the school's principal intervened "immediately" and Behr was allowed to participate for the entire duration of the pep rally, said school district spokesperson Janet Corsten.

"It was a temporary, misguided judgment on the part of the staff member at the school," Corsten said. "It was corrected immediately by the principal ... most importantly, all students were able to fully participate in the rally."

Behr said she did miss preparations for the event, which was attended by a local television news station, including the choreographing of a pro-Calgary Stampeders dance routine.

Behr's parents were quick to commend the school for resolving the matter and apologizing, but father Jason maintains the misunderstanding should never have occurred in the first place.

"She wasn't violating the dress code or anything," he said. "Because of that, she should be allowed to express herself freely."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

Rider pride

- Alesandra Behr said she was born and bred a Saskatchewan Roughriders fan by her father, Jason. He has held Calgary Stampeders season tickets for 13 years, but always dons his team's green jerseys when they visit town.
- Behr's parents requested the name of her school and vice-principal be withheld as they wanted to avoid personal attacks.

Alesandra Behr is seen wearing her Saskatchewan Roughriders jersey with pride this week. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

Province still in the black

Despite a substantial drop in potash and oil revenue, Saskatchewan still expects to work with a $12.4-million surplus PAGE 2

He's too sexy for his hat

The online version of a Chinese newspaper takes a satirical report at face value, hailing North Korea's dictator as the Sexiest Man Alive PAGE 4

Brangelina wedding 'soon'

Will they finally tie the knot? Brad Pitt says the kids are putting pressure on him to get married to Angelina Jolie PAGE 8

NEWS 1

Resource earnings down, but province on track for surplus

Mid-year update. Growth in other areas of the economy balances drop in resource revenue, finance minister says

A drop of more than $400 million in potash and oil revenue has hit Saskatchewan's bottom line, but the province says it is still in the black.

The mid-year financial update released by the government on Tuesday forecasts a $12.4-million surplus. It's a big drop from the spring budget, which initially estimated a $95-million surplus.

"The decrease in the price of a barrel of oil has been significant. It's very volatile," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said.

Overall revenue is projected at $11.2 billion, down $51 million from budget estimates. Potash revenue dropped by $239.8 million and oil is down $164.6 million.

Krawetz said despite a significant downturn in resource revenue, the budget remains balanced because of growth in other parts of the economy.

The mid-year report says personal income tax is up $167.7 million, there is more revenue from a larger-than-expected crop in 2012 and ministries have been tightening expenses to find $61.2 million in savings.

But the province also got a big boost with a one-time, $123-million resource surcharge that came from adopting new federal income-tax rules.

Krawetz said the province could have been in trouble without that money. "In this case, the $123 million is a one-time partnership adjustment and we recognize that and that's why there will be challenges for the financial planning for 2013-14 and beyond."

The budget was also balanced on what is called a summary financial basis, which takes into account all areas of government, including Crown corporations.

But the Opposition NDP said the budget update is off-track. New Democrat Trent Wotherspoon said the resource-revenue projections have been a concern "from day one."

"Unfortunately, that seems to be a reality that they were overly optimistic," he said. "We still have some concern that maybe we should be more cautious than we are here at mid-year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz delivers the 2012-13 mid-year report on Tuesday at the provincial legislature.
ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Close race

Ward 4 vote recount today

A judge is examining ballots from Ward 4 on Wednesday to see if any discrepancies could point to a different winner.

The ballots will be run through the voting machine again and a judge will look at all ballots that are spit back out to determine if there was an intention to vote for a candidate. In the 6,650 ballots cast, there were 218 blank votes and three over-votes.

Ward 4 was the closest race in the Oct. 24 civic election, with Bryon Burnett beating out Tina Beaudry-Mellor by 34 votes.

Go to metronews.ca for updates on the recount.

METRO

First Link program

Alzheimer Society asks province for more funding

The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan says it needs more money from the province to help a growing number of people with dementia.

Society members were at the legislature asking for $450,000 for a program called First Link, a network of education and support services for patients and their families.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health gives the program $50,000 a year.

The society noted, in comparison, that Manitoba provides $210,000 for the program, while Alberta gives $1.4 million annually.

Society CEO Joanne Bracken said more money would mean the program could expand outside of Regina and Saskatoon.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan said he would like to see the program expand, but requests for more money will have to be considered in the provincial budget process.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tahrir Square anger flares anew as 200,000 tell Morsi: 'Leave!'

Shades of the Arab Spring. Egypt faces dangerous new turmoil after Islamist president seizes vast new powers

Suddenly, it was the Arab Spring all over again.

More than 200,000 people packed Cairo's iconic Tahrir Square on Tuesday in the biggest challenge yet to Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

And the same angry chants used against Hosni Mubarak were turned against his successor.

"The people want to bring down the regime!" and "erhal, erhal" — Arabic for "leave, leave" — rang out across the world-famous plaza, this time directed at Egypt's first freely elected president.

The massive, flag-waving, chanting throng protesting Morsi's assertion of near-absolute powers rivalled some of the largest crowds that helped drive Mubarak from office last year.

The protests were sparked by edicts Morsi issued last week that effectively neutralize the judiciary, the last branch of government he does not control.

But they turned into a broader outpouring of anger against Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood.

Both, opponents say, have used election victories to monopolize power, squeeze out rivals and dictate a new, Islamist constitution — while doing little to solve Egypt's mounting economic and security woes.

Clashes broke out in several cities, with Morsi's opponents attacking Brotherhood offices, setting fire to at least one.

Protesters and Brotherhood members pelted each other with stones and firebombs in the Nile Delta city of Mahalla el-Kobra, leaving at least 100 people injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Power has exposed the Brotherhood. We discovered their true face."

Housewife Laila Salah, who attended the massive Tahrir protest

More than 200,000 chanting protesters cram into the iconic Tahrir Square in Cairo on Tuesday in a massive outpouring of anger over Islamist President Mohammed Morsi's assertion of near-absolute powers. NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter must address privacy fears, MP says

Tweet this, Twitter fans.

NDP MP Charlie Angus says Canadians need to know more about how the social media giant protects their privacy.

Angus publicly quit using the microblogging site earlier this year, likening it to being badgered by a drunk on a 24-hour bus ride.

But he says a House of Commons study on privacy and social media requires the company's input.

A Commons committee decided last May to study the steps being taken by social media companies to protect the personal information of Canadians.

It followed high-profile interventions by Canada's privacy commissioner on the use of personal data by sites like Google and Facebook.

Both companies have appeared before the committee, but NDP MP Charmaine Borg says Twitter refused.

The company couldn't be reached for comment.

The committee has now agreed to send a formal letter asking Twitter to testify.

Charlie Angus has given up using Twitter. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Angus said Google and Facebook have supported the study, but the committee needs to go further.

"We're not going to have a full sense unless we have the main players," said Angus. "We need Twitter."

The motion to formally call Twitter to testify came after a representative from Facebook took committee members through that company's privacy policies.

Facebook's relationship with Canada's privacy commissioner, Jennifer Stoddart, is robust, said Robert Sherman, manager of privacy and public policy for the social networking giant.

"We found that we have had a very positive relationship with her office and have been able to discuss many of the issues and products that we've been (introducing)with her office and get their feedback," Sherman said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder charges. 'Deep down I had a feeling,' victim's mother says

PHILIP CROUCHER
Metro in Halifax

Kathleen McCartney didn't want to believe it could be him.

But the mother of murder victim Christina Cline, originally from London, Ont., says when she learned Saturday night her daughter's exfiancé and father of her three children was being charged in her killing, it didn't come as any real surprise.

"I didn't want to believe it, but deep down I had a feeling," Cline told Metro by phone from her London home.

Dustin Brian Hales, and his wife, Victoria Ann Weir-Hales, are each charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Cline.

Her body was found by a man walking in Halifax's Shubie Park on Nov. 19, 2011.

Hales and Cline were together for about 10 years, and had three children, now aged eight, nine and 10.

Cline met Hales while she lived in London and McCartney says the two moved to Halifax when she was about 18.

Christina Cline thought about moving back to London, her mom says. CONTRIBUTED

McCartney says Cline was looking to move back to London and wanted to bring her three kids with her.

Hales, she says, wasn't happy about the idea, and a court order was issued preventing Cline from taking the kids outside Nova Scotia.

Hales and his wife were first arrested last year and questioned but later released.

"We didn't have the evidence, but now we do," said Halifax Regional Police spokesperson Const. Pierre Bourdages. "It's a complex investigation."

Sperm donor case

Her dad's identity stays hidden

The B.C. Court of Appeal has thrown out an earlier decision that sided with a woman who wanted to know the identity of her sperm donor father.

Olivia Pratten wanted offspring like herself to be treated the same as people who are adopted.

But the court ruled there is no legal right for offspring to know their past and providing such information would amount to state intrusion into many people's lives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two women died

Elliot Lake probe gets secrecy plea

The owners of a mall that collapsed in Elliot Lake, Ont., killing two women, are asking a public inquiry to keep some of their documents secret.

A similar request has come from an engineering association related to disciplinary measures taken against two engineers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sexiest man? Chinese paper falls for spoof

The online version of China's Communist Party newspaper has hailed a report by The Onion naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as the "Sexiest Man Alive" — not realizing it is satire.

The People's Daily ran a 55-page photo spread on its website in a tribute to the round-faced leader, under the headline "North Korea's top leader named The Onion's Sexiest Man Alive for 2012."

Quoting The Onion's spoof report, the Chinese newspaper wrote, "With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true."

"Blessed with an air of power that masks an unmistakable cute, cuddly side, Kim made this newspaper's editorial board swoon with his impeccable fashion sense, chic short hairstyle, and, of course, that famous smile," the People's Daily cited The Onion as saying.

In 2002, the Beijing Evening News, one of the capital city's biggest tabloids at the time, published as news the fictional account that the U.S. Congress wanted a new building and that it might leave Washington. The Onion article was a spoof of the way sports teams threaten to leave cities in order to get new stadiums. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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[2] We will pay the basic title insurance fee, processing fee and one discharge fee (up to $300 maximum). Offer excludes mortgage prepayment charges that you may have to pay. Minimum advance $50,000. [3] 30 year amortization rate requires down payment of 20% or more. [4] The interest rate will fluctuate with the Prime Rate and is subject to change at any time without notice. These rates can be changed, withdrawn or extended at any time without notice. Residential mortgages are offered by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. ®/™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada.

Bangladesh workers struggle to air complaints

Deadly factory blaze. Fleeing workers found main exit locked and no emergency exit; survivor said managers told workers to get back to work after fire alarm went off

Clothing is king in Bangladesh, which exports more garments than any other in the world except China. It is responsible for four out of every five export dollars and has turned factory owners into members of parliament and leaders of sports clubs.

However, workers in those factories complain about poor working conditions and pay that can be less than $40 US a month. An agency called the Industrial Police is specifically assigned to deal with unrest in factories, and labour activists accuse government forces of killing one of their leaders. Employees are barred by law from forming trade unions, even though Bangladesh allows workers in other industries to unionize.

Workers hope that could change following the fire Saturday that killed 112 people at the Tazreen Fashions factory that made T-shirts and polo shirts for Wal-Mart and other retailers.

In an interview Tuesday, the managing director of Tazreen Fashions expressed concern — about possibly losing foreign buyers. But there was no mention in the article of concern for victims or their families. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just business?

- Wal-Mart says it decided to stop doing business with Tazreen after an audit deemed the factory "high risk" last year, but a supplier subcontracted work to the factory anyway. The retail giant said it stopped working with that supplier on Monday.
- In September, Karl-Johan Persson, chief executive of Swedish retail chain H&M, visited Bangladesh and said his 2,600-store group would increase its business relationship with the country.

Bangladeshi garment workers march through a street to mourn the death of the victims of Saturday's fire in a garment factory, on the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tuesday. KHURSHED RINKU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook arrests

Two Mumbai cops suspended

Two senior policemen have been suspended indefinitely for arresting two women over a Facebook post criticizing the shutdown of Mumbai for the funeral of a powerful politician.

The magistrate who registered the case against the women has been transferred to another district.

Police also arrested nine men who vandalized a medical clinic run by the uncle of one of the women.

One of the women had posted a Facebook comment complaining that Mumbai had come to a standstill after the death of rightwing leader Bal Thackeray. Her friend "liked" the post.

Their arrest last week was seen as a misuse of Internet laws and an attempt to curb freedom of expression. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong investing in parking spots

Speculation. This past weekend, buyers paid up to $167K per space

Investors looking for new places to park their cash in Hong Kong are driving up prices for parking spaces, sparking fears of a bubble in the Asian financial centre.

Prices for parking spots in Hong Kong are nearing historic highs, the side effect of government curbs to cool the housing market amid worries of overheating following the latest round of monetary stimulus in the U.S. last month.

There are "a lot of speculators in the market, especially for car parks," said Buggle Lau, senior analyst with Midland Realty. A bubble is "definitely forming."

Over the weekend, a developer sold about 500 parking spots at a new suburban apartment complex at prices of up to about $167,000 per space.

In a commercial building near the city's financial district on Hong Kong Island, an investor has put 34 parking spaces on sale for about $12.9 million, according to a report last week in the Ming Pao newspaper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrated Hong Kong model Lisa S sits in a Porsche at the Beijing Auto Show in this file photo. Where do you park your Porsche in Hong Kong? In a $167,000 parking space, according to the latest transactions. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Gift cards. Swap site will trade unwanted plastic

If the idea of regifting never held much appeal for you, take heart: There are dedicated sites that make it easier to part ways with unwanted gift cards.

This holiday season, if you find yourself in possession of a card designated for a restaurant or retailer you don't like or frequent, you can trade it in for a card you do want.

Frances Ho, co-founder and COO of Canadian website CardSwap, said she had an epiphany around four years ago when she found herself with a wallet full of gift cards for specific stores where she couldn't find anything she really wanted to purchase. She sought to pinpoint an easier way to exchange the gift cards for cash or for other cards she'd be more inclined to use.

This Christmas will mark the fourth in operation for CardSwap. Users selling cards have the choice of accepting points which are used to swap for other gift cards, receiving a cheque or being paid through PayPal, said Ho. Individuals can also convert unused gift cards for charitable donations, with Card-Swap issuing payment for up to 92 per cent of the face value.

"I think when you give a gift card out, the thought is there already; and if it isn't the correct gift card, I think the person that gave it to you would rather you use it at a place that you would go to and really enjoy," she added.

"The point of giving a gift card is so that a person is able to splurge a little or treat (themselves); so I think it's perfectly fine to swap it for something you're actually going to use." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Sometimes, when you receive a gift card, it just may not be the right place for you and so you just want to swap it out for your favourite store or your favourite restaurant."

Frances Ho, co-founder and COO of the Canadian website CardSwap, now in its fourth year of operation.

Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.53¢ (-0.09¢)

TSX
12,111.63 (-73.42)

OIL
$87.18 US (-56¢)

GOLD
$1,742.30 US (-$7.30)

Natural gas: $3.89 US (+16¢)
Dow Jones: 12,878.13 (-89.24)

Auto industry

Feds usher in new emission rules

On the eve of global climate talks that will put Canada's contentious policies under the microscope, Ottawa has introduced its next set of rules to cut greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.

Under regulations proposed Tuesday, vehicles built between 2017 and 2025 must cut emissions by an average of five per cent a year, every year. Environment Minister Peter Kent said that should cut annual gas costs by about $900 per auto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business jets

Bombardier nets plane order worth up to $7.8B

Bombardier has made the biggest sale of business aircraft in its history with a deal to provide up to 142 Global aircraft to private European luxury charter company VistaJet in a transaction potentially worth up to $7.8 billion US.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ralcorp purchase

ConAgra becomes top U.S. producer of private-label food

ConAgra Foods is set to become America's biggest maker of store-brand foods, with a $5-billion US purchase of Ralcorp that expands its stake in the growing market for cereals, crackers and other packaged foods sold under private labels.

The deal announced Tuesday caps a year of acquisitions for ConAgra, which makes brands including Banquet, Chef Boyardee and Marie Callender's. The company, based in Omaha, Neb., also made multiple attempts to buy Ralcorp last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOYZ OF MIXED MESSAGEZ AND MISUNDERSTANDINGZ

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's an epidemic of misunderstanding going on.

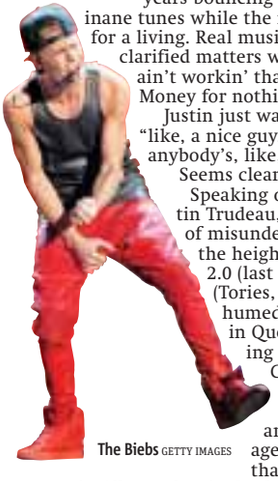
Why, just the other day, I was misunderstood by a reader who called me "rich" and "arrogant." He was, at best, only half right. I'm tempted to clarify, but that usually leads to more misunderstanding.

Former Ford Nation Chief TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

At least I'm not alone. If I think I'm misunderstood, what about poor Rob Ford, the mayor of Toronto? He tried so hard to make everything simple, for example, characterizing the complex problems of transit in a North American megacity as "the war on cars." And what thanks does he get? Booted out of office for conflict of interest around his football association, that's what.

It's not his fault. It's those leftists like lawyer Clayton Ruby who fail to understand that he's a simple man of the people who doesn't get conflict of interest and all that stuff.

Then there's Justin Bieber, the world's most misunderstood pop tart, who was booed every time he showed his face at the Grey Cup, even though there were worthy alternative targets such as Burton Cummings' ridiculous rendition of O Canada. Justin thinks these "haterz" hate the very idea of Justin Bieber. They can't stand it that some kid made more than $100 million over the last two years bouncing around the stage to inane tunes while the rest of us had to work for a living. Real musician Mark Knopfler clarified matters when he sang: "That ain't workin' that's the way you do it. Money for nothin' ..."



The Biebs GETTY IMAGES

Justin just wants to be known as, "like, a nice guy. But I won't take anybody's, like, s–t."

Seems clear to me.

Speaking of Justin, there's Justin Trudeau, yet another victim of misunderstanding. Right at the height of Trudeaumania 2.0 (last week), the haterz (Tories, in this case), exhumed a video clip of Justin in Quebec circa 2010 moaning about the state of Canada because of the Albertans "who control our community and socio-democratic agenda." Needless to say, that was misunderstood in Alberta, but in Quebec, nothing was lost in translation.

What he meant to convey was that "Albertans" was shorthand for Stephen Harper and his gang of neo-Tories, but everybody just misunderstood. I am also tempted to point out that a lot of people don't understand that Stephen Harper is, in fact, from Etobicoke. Like Rob Ford.

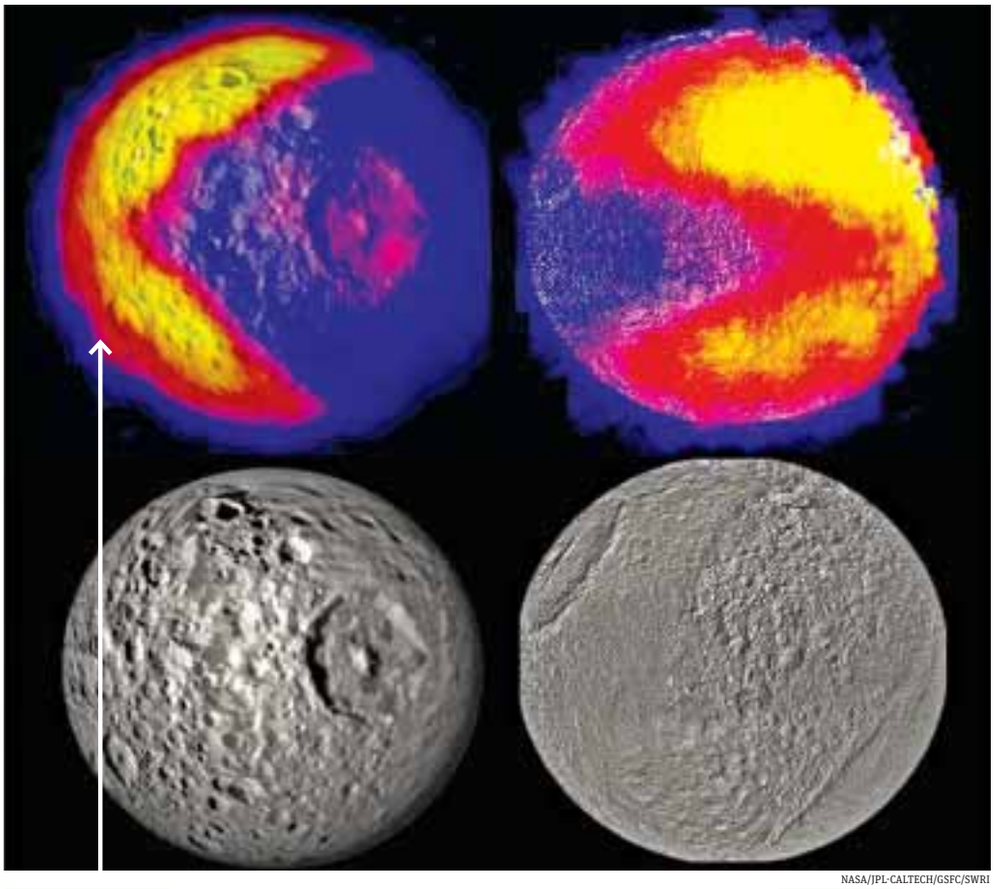
Now Etobicoke is going to start complaining that it's misunderstood.

Before that happens, we need to nip this epidemic in the bud. The only thing Rob Ford, Justin Bieber and Justin Trudeau don't understand is that the people (at least the leftists, haterz and Tories) are not fooled. They understand, only too well.

Except when it comes to me, of course.

Trudeau 2.0 THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pac-Man replays on moons



NASA/JPL-CALTECH/GSFC/SWRI

Space exploration

Video game hero spotted in moons

NASA put a man on the moon in the 1960s — a few decades later Pac-Man appears on two of Saturn's moons. Scientists with the Cassini spacecraft mission have identified two features shaped like the 1980s video game icon on moons of Saturn. One was observed on the moon Mimas, left, in 2010 and the latest was observed on the moon Tethys.

These remarkable infrared images measure the surface temperature of the two satellites. In a new report, researchers theorize that this distinctive pattern is the result of high-energy electrons colliding into low latitudes on the forward-facing sides moons as they orbit around Saturn. This bombardment transforms the normally "fluffy" surface into hard-packed ice, NASA said. METRO

Screenshot of the 1980 arcade game Pac-Man. NAMCO

Temperature

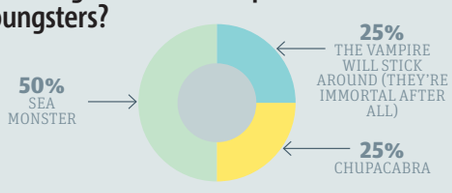
-185

degrees Celsius is the warmest temperature recorded on the surface of Tethys in data obtained on Sept. 14, 2011. Daytime temperatures inside the mouth of Pac-Man were seen to be cooler than their surroundings by 1.6 C.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Now that the Twilight saga is over, what creature is set to capture the attention of the next generation of impressionable youngsters?



Twitter

@Bsnowsell:
Very thoughtful #yqr parking officer. He cleaned all the snow off the windshield before leaving a ticket. #notmethistime

@Thundercooper:
Saskatchewan stands alone in Canada and much of the western world with a balanced budget. #solid-management #saskadvantage #skpoli #cdnpoli

@JephMaystruck:
Man honks and yells at me for not turning right at 13th and Elphinstone. Pulls up beside me, bout get out, sees my mustache, gets back in.

@Shanan_S:
Currently chomping on my first candy cane of the season. Love them!

@Mojo_squared:
Contemplating whether sleep is more important than putting up Xmas decorations tonight after work. Have a feeling I'll be doing the latter..

metro
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James Gandolfini plays a foul-mouthed hitman in Killing Them Softly. HANDOUT

James Gandolfini: I'm 'like a 260-pound Woody Allen'

Killing Them Softly. Hard to erase memories of Tony Soprano in new film

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Tony Soprano was one of the most recognizable television characters of the last decade, yet the man who breathed life into him, actor James Gandolfini, says, "I never think about him, ever."

He may not, but audiences do. It's difficult to see the burly actor in any other role without thinking about the troubled gangster he played on 86 episodes of The Sopranos.

This weekend, he plays a foul-mouthed hitman in Killing Them Softly, opposite Brad Pitt and Ray Liotta. Despite his powerful presence, the role likely won't do much to erase memories of Soprano.

The New-Jersey-born actor first earned notice playing — you guessed it — a hitman in Tony Scott's True Romance. Similar roles in movies like Get Shorty followed, but Gandolfini says he is nothing like the tough guy characters he so frequently plays.

Even though he once earned a living as a bouncer (he also delivered seltzer for a company called Gimme Seltzer) and has repeatedly unlocked a wellspring of rage on screen, he says, "I'm a neurotic mess. I'm really basically just like a 260-pound Woody Allen."

Perhaps that's what he tapped into when he voiced Carol, the impulsive creature in Where the Wild Things Are.

It's a sensitive performance that shows off Gandolfini's softer side. He does go on a "wild ruckus," but at least he doesn't shoot anybody.

In fact, we may soon see less and less of his badass side. "I'm getting a little older, you know," he says. "The running and the jumping and killing, it's a little past me."

In the dark indie Welcome to the Rileys (directed by Jake Scott, son of Ridley) he's unarmed, playing a troubled businessman whose life unravels when he befriends a stripper, played by Kristen Stewart.

In the Loop, a wild satire of British politics, saw Gandolfini take a detour into comedy, but his strangest movie came in 2010. Mint Julep was made in 1995 after Gandolfini had appeared in Terminal Velocity and Crimson Tide, but because of money issues it wasn't released until after The Sopranos was off the air. Noticeably thinner, and with more hair, he plays a perverted landlord opposite David Morse.

Yet another side of the actor can be seen in Alive Day: Home from Iraq, a documentary in which he interviews injured Iraq War veterans about the physical and emotional costs of war.

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Rowling sells her Scotland home, makes a mint

J.K. Rowling is a bit of a wizard when it comes to real estate. The bestselling author recently sold the Edinburgh, Scotland home — where she wrote four of her seven Harry Potter novels — for $3.6 million after just three weeks on the market, according to People magazine. Rowling bought the top half of the home in 1999 and later bought the downstairs section and converted it into a single home with eight bedrooms, a walled garden and a detached office in the back. The buyer is an anonymous Scottish businessman.

J.K. Rowling

Twitter

@TheRealRoseanne
my deviled eggs are the best

@jason_mraz
yoga makes me fart.

@EvaLongoria
And the tree is unloaded and UP!

@SarahKSilverman
There should be an age limit on wearing those zig-zag Charlie Brown T-shirts

Shia LaBeouf

LaBeouf and Pho no more

Shia LaBeouf has split up with his girlfriend of two years, Karolyn Pho, according to Us Weekly.

A source tells the magazine that the Lawless star and stylist Pho actually broke up "a while ago," and LaBeouf is clearly already moving on, having been spotted cosying up to a mystery blond over the weekend at L.A.'s the Magic Castle.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Pitt and Jolie: Finally getting hitched?

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie may be finally making good on their engagement and getting married sooner rather than later. "I am getting more pressure from my kids, and it is something I want to do within their lifetime," he tells reporters at the Killing Them Softly premiere, according to Hollyscoop. "But I also feel like the time has come. The time is now. It's soon. I got a good feeling about it." And Pitt admits it's not just pressure from the kids that has him eager to tie the knot. It turns out he's into the idea as well: "We've had a family, we've raised the kids. I am surprised how much [marriage] meant to me once you had that," he says.

Hearing Tests Set for Regina

Free electronic hearing screen tests will be given on November 29th, 30th and Saturday December 1st, 2012 at the Beltone Hearing Centre at 2160 Broad Street, Regina. The tests have been arranged for anyone who suspects they are losing their hearing. Such persons generally say they can hear but not understand words. Testing with the latest computerized equipment will indicate whether you can be helped.

Everyone, especially those over 50 should have an electronic hearing screen test at least once a year. If there is a hearing problem, hearing tests may reveal that newly developed methods of correction will help, even for those who have been told that a hearing aid would not help them. If you suspect you've experienced hearing loss, phone in for a free hearing screen test. Our licensed audiologist is trained in the latest auditory testing methods. And we'll be the first ones to tell you if you don't need a hearing aid. But if you do have a hearing loss, we'll explain your results and provide you with a list of options.

If you suspect even minor hearing loss, don't let it go untreated. Call for your free test now. 359-6003 or Toll Free 1-800-497-7772. 2160 Broad St@14th Ave., Regina. www.AskBeltone.com

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Today in celebrity lawsuits

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Celebrities. If they aren't getting divorced, they're getting sued. Here's a breakdown of the latest legal woes of your favourite stars.

While Halle Berry is hoping to make her temporary restraining order against ex Gabriel Aubry permanent following his bloody Thanksgiving row with her fiancé, Olivier Martinez, Aubry himself is reportedly seeking legal protection, according to TMZ. In his legal declaration following the incident, Aubry claims that Martinez threatened his life and used intimidating language the day before the fight, during a school play featuring Nahla, the daughter Berry and Aubry share. Aubry has been granted a restraining order of his own against Martinez.

The lawsuits just keep coming for Kevin Clash, the beleaguered ex-voice of Elmo. He's been slammed with a third accusation of having sex with an underage boy a week after a similar allegation prompted him to resign from Sesame Street. A man identified only as John Doe alleges Clash engaged in oral sex and other sex acts with him when he was 16 years old. The suit, which was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, seeks at least $75,000 in damages, per Reuters.

A Katt Williams fan isn't just brushing off a terrible performance by the comedian — he's suing the star on behalf of everyone who had to witness it. This week, Brian Herline of Modesto, Calif., filed a class action lawsuit against Williams and Live Nation on behalf of the audience members who attended a Williams show at Oakland's Oracle Arena earlier this month. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Williams went bonkers 10 minutes into his set, taking off all of his clothes and then challenging people to fight (sounds watchable to me). The gracious Herline is seeking class-action certification in an effort to get ticket money back for all audience members.

It's been a bad week for Justin Bieber. First, he was booed by a bunch of football fans for his halftime performance at the Grey Cup on Sunday, and now he has been hit with a $9.2 million lawsuit brought against him by Stacey Wilson Betts. Betts claims she lost her hearing "by a sound blast that exceeded safe decibel levels" at a Bieber concert two years ago. Two years is a long time to wait to file a lawsuit. Even fishier? She's representing herself. Bieber and his lawyers asked for the case to be dismissed, stating that Betts has a "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted," which is legalese for "girlfriend is crazy."

And, finally, we're going to save the most beautiful and touching for last: Hulk Hogan and Bubba the Love Sponge have settled out of court regarding Hulk's lawsuit against Bubba over a sex tape scandal. Hogan sued his former friend and Bubba's ex-wife Heather Clem for taping him in sexual acts with Heather without his knowledge and consent. The terms of the settlement are confidential.

With Barack Obama back in the White House and Abraham Lincoln in movie theatres, we thought it was time to immerse ourselves in Chicago — a city with historic ties to both presidents. We visited Lincoln Park, Bucktown and Wicker Park to give you this best friend's guide to the north side of the city

METRO NEWS
life@metronews.ca

Dishing deep on Chicago

Bucktown and Wicker Park

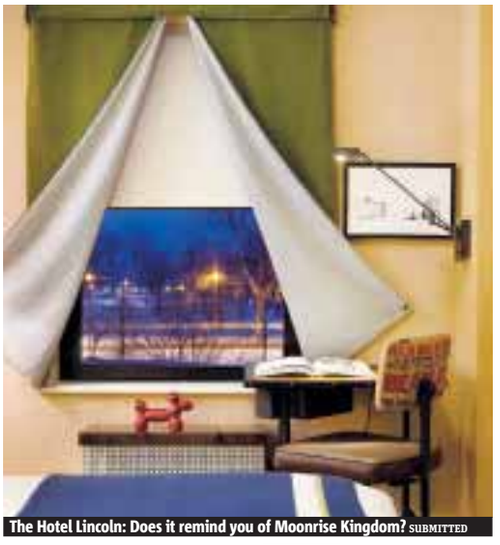
Located west of Lincoln Park, both neighbourhoods have seen a resurgence in recent years as established residents and young families mix with students and hipsters. Before you start exploring, grab lunch at Big Star (1531 North Damen Ave., bigstarchicago.com), a whiskey and taco eatery just past the Damen L transit station. Across the street from Big Star is The Violet Hour (1520 North Damen Ave., theviolethour.com). The lounge has a nearly hidden entrance and speak-easy feel. A house rule helps to achieve this — cellphones are left at the door! End your day by grabbing dinner at The Bristol (2152 North Damen Ave., thebristolchicago.com), an award-winning Bucktown restaurant. GQ named the eatery one of the 10 best new restaurants in America, and with its extensive wine list and seasonal-based creations, it's easily worthy of the title.

GQ named The Bristol one of the 10 best new restaurants in the U.S., so it's worth a visit if you find yourself in Bucktown. SUBMITTED

Lincoln Park

Before leaving Hotel Lincoln, grab a coffee from Elaine's Coffee Call. Located off the lobby, the small café is named after a former hotel telephone operator, who at night would call up former hotel mainstay and famed playwright David Mamet to see if he wanted an evening drink. The walls of Elaine's are covered with multiple layers of dog-eared wallpaper made even more interesting with coffee beans rubbed onto them with a brick. It makes the place feel well-loved, well-used and timeless.

Across the street from the hotel is Lincoln Park, a more than 1,200-acre retreat from the city nestled on the edge of Lake Michigan. Locals stroll and jog through the more than 25 kilometres of trails in this urban get away. Near the park centre is Lincoln Park Zoo (lpzoo.org), a free facility featuring a menagerie of creatures, from sea lions to land lions. The animals are like an extended family for locals, who can stroll through at any time and watch as the babies — including two recently born gorillas — grow up.



The Hotel Lincoln: Does it remind you of Moonrise Kingdom? SUBMITTED

Presidential digs

Online

For more, visit choosechicago.com

Stepping into the Hotel Lincoln is like walking onto the set of a Wes Anderson movie. The Midwest meets New England with golden yellows, foresty greens and a sense of quaint nostalgia reminiscent of the director's Moonrise Kingdom.

A number of the rooms feature curtains that open like the flaps of a tent, and patterned carpeting guides you through the hallways and suites. While it underwent extensive renovations before being opened by hotel operator Joie de Vivre early in 2012, the 12-storey building still retains its historic edge. The 184-room Lincoln has the feel of a boutique hotel with whimsical touches — like an eclectic wall of pictures and paintings leading from the lobby to the second floor, and a reception desk clad in drawer fronts. On the rooftop, an all-season bar offers sweeping views of Lake Michigan, North Avenue Beach and downtown Chicago. Off the lobby is Perennial Virant (perennialchicago.com), offering a seasonal menu and featuring pickled and canned ingredients purchased from local growers. (1816 North Clark St. jdvhotels.com.)

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Watch Canada roll by

New era. Travellers are choosing the train more often as a holiday option

According to Via Rail, more Canadians are choosing the train to see the country roll by in its full romantic splendour. NEWS CANADA

More and more Canadians are choosing Canada again as a holiday travel destination and they are seeing it roll by in its full romantic splendour on the train.

In fact, a new era in train travel has emerged as Via Rail's ridership numbers continue to increase on certain routes while higher fuel prices, environmental concerns and chronic road congestion continue to rise. With this in mind, here are the five most popular Canadian rail trips chosen by travellers, according to Mylène Bélanger, senior adviser, media relations for Via Rail.

1 Prince Rupert, B.C., to Jasper, Alta. — "It's easily the best-kept scenic secret in train travel," Bélanger said, describing Via Rail's unique rail adventure across the wondrous Canadian Rockies and the coastal range in north-central British Columbia. The 1,160-kilometre, two-day journey winds past jagged peaks and glacial streams to ocean vistas as it runs between Jasper and Prince Rupert.

2 Journey on the train "The Canadian" — Toronto to Vancouver — On Via Rail's The Canadian, passengers get to discover the true sense of the breadth and diversity our country has to offer. This journey begins in Toronto and after four days, more than 4,400 kilometres and five provinces, reaches Vancouver on the Pacific Coast.

3 Churchill to Winnipeg — The 1,700-kilometre, two-day journey from Winnipeg to the subarctic region of northern Manitoba gives passengers the chance to see the Northern Lights and the beautiful northern landscape. In addition to allowing travellers to familiarize themselves with the First Nations culture, Churchill hosts families of polar bears that can be witnessed between October and November during the annual polar bear trek.

4 Montreal to Halifax on "The Ocean" — The 1,346-kilometre overnight trip runs through two of Eastern Canada's most dynamic cities. Montreal and Halifax represent the different cultures and rich history that make up Canada. You begin your journey in Montreal, a culture immersed in European tradition, and end in Halifax, a busy port city marked by its renowned Maritime hospitality. In less than 24 hours, you are swept away by the romance of train travel and gorgeous scenery.

5 Montreal to Gaspe, Que. — The Montreal to Halifax train separates in the early morning to allow a portion of the train to continue on to Chaleur Bay to Gaspe. Passengers on this train wake up to a beautiful display of seaside scenery featuring charming small towns. The 1,041-kilometre journey makes a stop in Percé in the afternoon where you can take in the breathtaking views of Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island.

NEWS CANADA

Get off the ground smoothly at airports with these simple tips

The festive season is a great time for a getaway with the entire family to visit relatives. But going through airport security during the busiest travel days of the year can be stressful.

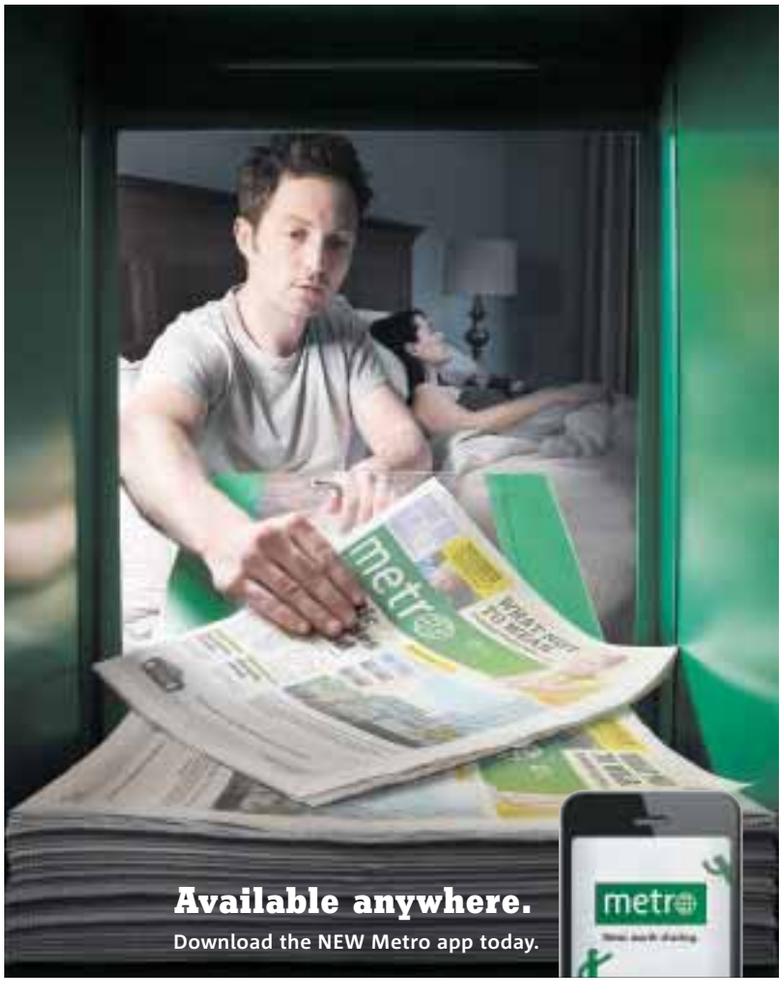
The Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) says that delays and stress can be avoided by following a few easy steps.

No matter how big (or small) your family is, follow these guidelines to get off the ground smoothly:

- Leave gifts unwrapped in case their contents need to be inspected. Make sure any toys that look like weapons are placed in checked baggage, not your carry-on.
- Grandma's jam, mom's toiletries, dad's shaving cream and other liquids, gels and aerosols in your carry-on must be in containers of 100 millilitres or less and need to be placed in a clear one-litre plastic bag.
- Baby food, formula, milk, water and juice are exempt from this policy when travelling with your child younger than the age of two.
- Medications are also exempt. They must be presented separately to the screening officer.
- Use the line designated for families and passengers with special needs where you can get extra assistance. These lines are available at most major Canadian airports.
- If you or your child has special needs, let the screening officer know and don't be afraid to ask for assistance.
- Strollers and car seats will need to be X-rayed. Hold your child as you walk through the metal detector.

For more tips on travelling with small children, visit catsa.gc.ca or the mobile site at m.catsa.gc.ca.

NEWS CANADA



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To wrap or not to wrap this shrimp, avocado and feta combo

Shrimp, Avocado and Feta Wrap

This recipe serves eight. Present it in a wrap or a bowl. RYAN SZULC, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

You can substitute baby cocktail shrimp if you don't have the larger ones. Also, be sure to seed the tomatoes first to avoid excess liquid. Corn kernels are a nice addition to the filling.

1. Lightly coat skillet with vegetable spray and set over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp and grill just until no longer pink, about 3 minutes, turning halfway through. Remove from the heat and let cool slightly. Dice the shrimp and place in a large mixing bowl.

2. Add the tomatoes, avocado, cilantro, red onion, feta, olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, jalapeño, salt and pepper.

3. Place 1 lettuce leaf on each of the 4 tortillas and divide the shrimp mixture evenly among the tortillas, spreading it to about 1/4 inch from the edges. Fold in the sides of the tortillas and roll up. Cut each in half and serve. ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Ingredients

- 6 oz raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 1/2 cups chopped plum tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped avocado
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tbsp chopped red onion
- 1/3 cup crumbled light feta cheese (about 1 1/2 oz)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp finely chopped jalapeño pepper
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 4 large whole lettuce leaves
- 4 large whole wheat flour tortillas

Drink of the Week

Orange Cosmo Crush

Before the final leaves fall off the trees, celebrate autumn one last time with this fun adult drink that's perfect for parties.

- 15 ml (1/2 oz) Drambuie
- 30 ml (1 oz) orange-flavoured vodka
- Juiced 1/2 orange
- Ice

Half-fill a mixing tin with ice and add Drambuie, vodka and orange juice. Shake until tin is frosted and strain into a martini glass.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DRAMBUIE LIQUEUR

Treat them to savoury and classic Two-Bite Tourtières

A recent Tenderflake survey revealed that one in five Canadians consider tourtière their favourite savoury pie.

Inspired by the classic French Canadian favourite, these mini versions are perfect for gatherings.

Save yourself time on the day of your event by baking these pies ahead of time and freezing them in an airtight container. Once needed, simply defrost, reheat for 5 to 10 minutes and serve.

This recipe serves nine. NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 1 package (18) Tenderflake Frozen Mini Tart Shells
- 1/2 lb (250 g) lean ground pork
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely grated
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 3/4 tsp (3 ml) celery seed
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground pepper
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) allspice
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ground cloves
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) apple cider
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) mashed potatoes

1. Defrost tart shells according to package directions. Place on baking sheet.

2. Preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C).

3. Crumble pork into a large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook, breaking the meat into small pieces with a wooden spoon, until browned. Drain off any excess fat.

4. Add onion, carrot, garlic, salt, celery seed, pepper, allspice and cloves. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Stir in cider and potatoes; reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; cool to room temperature.

5. Divide pork mixture evenly between tarts shells.

6. Bake on lowest rack, for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown.

NEWS CANADA/ TENDERFLAKE

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Student voice

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At the end of my five years at Simon Fraser University, I received a bachelor in business administration and honours in marketing and management information systems. It was very exciting, and the certificate is proudly displayed in my parents' den. But that is not definitive of my time at SFU. Instead, the out-of-classroom elements, including three co-ops, case competitions both local and abroad, an academic exchange at Tsinghua University in Beijing and a community development internship in Brazil, have defined my past five years. It is those elements of my university experience that have made me more competitive in the business world and allowed me to secure a role with Procter & Gamble one year prior to my graduation.

What I'm doing now

After I signed with P&G in November 2011, I graduated from SFU in April 2012 and travelled to Southeast Asia with my friends, followed by a two-month volunteer internship via SFU AIESEC, a student-run exchange group, in the south of Brazil. I am now working at P&G Canada in Toronto as an assistant brand manager.

My advice for students

When I reflect upon my past five years, co-ops and case competitions have undoubtedly honed my career-oriented acumen and skills. However, my most memorable experiences would be my exchanges. From my exchanges in China and Brazil, I have emerged as more of a global citizen, with a better understanding of myself and where I want to be. I made friends with people from across the globe, I learned a new language, a new culture and I made an impact with those who I volunteered with.

All in all, there's only one thing left for you to do. Stop hesitating. Apply today and go on an exchange. I highly recommend doing at least one exchange. There are significant differences between an academic and an AIESEC exchange, so I would recommend doing both if you can. There may be reasons against the exchange, but I know the experience is worth delaying graduation by a semester or two.

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A recruiter's guide to the attention-grab

Remember my name. Walk into each interview with an arsenal of successful strategies

KELSEY GOFORTH
TalentEgg.ca

Take the time to think for a moment before you speak and prepare a concise answer to the question asked. ISTOCK

I work as a recruiter, meaning I assist my company in finding people that fit with our company culture, convey a passion for what we do and, most importantly, have the potential to take on the roles that we hire for.

With hundreds of applicants each week and a commitment to speak to each and every one of them, I have been exposed to both outstanding as well as disappointing job seekers.

Each day, I conduct phone interviews where I speak to a handful of impressive applicants.

They answer the phone excited about the prospect of a new position and relay back to me information they researched about the company, asking for clarification along the way.

Unfortunately, they are the minority. Most applicants have neglected to do so much as a quick Google search about the company. They answer the phone, neither thanking me for getting in touch with them nor displaying any interest or excitement about what I'm telling them.

A surprising number of people fail to follow simple guidelines, severely lowering their likelihood of getting hired. These are my top three tips for how students and recent grads can impress recruiters like me:

Be enthusiastic

If you are being contacted by the company you applied with, you should be quite grateful. I have applied to dozens of jobs over the past few years and never got so much as an email thanking me for my application for most of them. If a company has taken the time to contact you and give you a chance, be excited! Whether the interview is for your dream job or just to make some money during your summer holidays, show some enthusiasm.

Know why you want this particular job

Take the time to research the company and position. Having some background knowledge will make your interview go much more smoothly. The more you know about a company's history and objectives, the more likely you will be able to connect yourself and your experiences to the role you are applying for.

Make connections

To get an interview started, I often ask applicants to tell me a bit about their work experience. Oftentimes, they rhyme off their past few years of work without actually telling me the most important part of these experiences. Take the time to point out specific responsibilities you had or skills you developed through the jobs you held. Saying you had a customer service job is far more impressive if you add in the fact that you were able to sharpen your communication skills and your ability to stay focused under pressure, or that you often assisted management with more advanced duties, such as ordering new merchandise.

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metro
WINTER CAR CARE
Wednesday, November 28, 2012

The reason why snow tires are the most effective at preventing accidents is because they have deeper, specially designed treads and are made of innovative rubber compounds that are softer and more pliant. NEWS CANADA

Winter tires save money and lives

Feel that cold air? It won't be long now until we're all dealing with sub-zero temperatures and wind chill that takes your breath away. While we can all agree that the prospect of winter can be pretty miserable, being prepared and taking the necessary precautions in advance of the ice and snow is ideal. And one of the best ways of doing this is by switching to winter tires.

But according to a recent Canadian Tire survey, a majority of drivers in Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia choose not to install winter tires, mistakenly believing that all-season tires offer adequate safety.

The evidence says otherwise. In winter condition tests, Transport Canada and the Rubber Association of Canada found that stopping was 30 to 40 per cent longer with all-season compared to winter tires. In cornering, vehicles with all-season tires went off the testing track at speeds of only 40 to 50 km/h, while the vehicles equipped with winter tires had no problem. The results were consistent with front-, rear- and all-wheel vehicles.

Urban regions

"What's interesting is that many people who live in snow-belt regions across the country recognize the need for them. But some drivers in urban regions don't see the need to switch. The fact is we've all experienced those icy mornings when you're rushing to work or school and the salt trucks just haven't made it to your neighbourhood yet. These conditions are much more dangerous than just plain snow and having the right tires can keep everyone safe."

Joe Daly, Desjardins General Insurance spokesperson

The experts from Desjardins General Insurance (DGI) agree that winter tires are designed to save lives.

"What's interesting is that many people who live in snow-belt regions across the country recognize the need for them," said DGI spokesperson Joe Daly.

"But some drivers in urban regions don't see the need to switch. The fact is we've all experienced those icy mornings when you're rushing to work or school and the salt trucks just haven't made it to your neighbourhood yet. These conditions are much more dangerous than just plain snow and having the right tires can keep everyone safe."

The reason why these tires are the most effective at preventing accidents is because they have deeper, specially designed treads and are made of innovative rubber compounds that are softer and more pliant. This allows them to perform better on ice, snow and slush, but also in both dry and wet conditions when the temperature dips below 7 C.

Daly also suggests that it's important to keep an eye on your tires' air pressure. "Overnight temperatures can drop from 5 C to –15 C and this rapid reduction can zap the air out of you tires by as much as four psi (pounds per square inch). An underinflated tire can be quite dangerous, so it's important to keep tracking your tire pressure."

Having a safe winter is a great reason to equip your car with the best tires. Transport Canada suggests that "winter tires marked with the pictograph of a peaked mountain with a snowflake meet specific snow traction performance requirements, and have been designed specifically for use in winter conditions."

Another incentive is that some insurance companies like DGI will reward their clients who use winter tires with a discount on their auto insurance. NEWS CANADA

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The right tools for the road

Tips. It may seem like common sense, but you need to adjust driving habits during the winter

Slick roads and poor visibility can cause even the most confident drivers to hesitate to turn the ignition. NEWS CANADA

Consider how many times during the holiday season you will get behind the wheel, with endless trips to pick up gifts, food, supplies and visiting loved ones. But despite the reputation of Canadians as cold weather warriors, winter driving can still be daunting for many of us. Add in unpredictable weather, slick roads and poor visibility and even the most confident drivers hesitate to turn the ignition.

"The holidays are a busy time — and not just on local roads. Drivers are travelling greater distances to visit family and friends," said UPS Canada vice-president of operations Lou Rivieccio. "Ensuring you know proper driving techniques and arming yourself with the right tools will make the roads much safer for you and other motorists."

A recent survey by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia noted that 70 per cent of drivers admit to feeling frustrated and less safe when driving in winter conditions — and not surprisingly, accidents occur far more frequently.

Rivieccio points out that part of UPS's commitment to road safety is its Circle of Honour program — a dedicated group of active drivers who have maintained a clean driving record for 25 years or more. To date, Circle of Honour drivers have logged more than eight billion accident-free kilometres on the road. That's enough kilometres to circle the Earth 188,000 times.

Here are five winter driving tips to keep you safe this season, courtesy of the Circle of Honour:

Prep for winter in the fall. Be proactive and get your car serviced before the cold weather hits. Check your oil, washer fluid and brakes. Invest in tires specifically for winter driving. Make sure your battery is charged, confirm all lights are working, get quality windshield wipers and test the heating/cooling system.

Monitor the weather. Winter weather can change on a dime, so take a minute to check the report before you hit the road. If there has been a recent snowfall, avoid side streets and shortcuts — those are the last places to see the snowplow. Be cautious of black ice, especially if the temperature has been mild and then dropped.

Drive safely with a clear view. When you are clearing your car of snow, don't overlook the roof, hood and trunk. Snow can fly up and unexpectedly obscure visibility once you are on the road. Mirrors should always be defrosted and wiped clear and headlights should be clean of dirt and ice.

Always be prepared. Create an emergency kit containing non-perishable snacks, bottled water, maps, flashlight, blankets, toilet paper, de-icer, washer fluid and an extra windshield brush. Keep an extra shovel in the trunk as well.

It's not a race. Arriving safely should be your goal. Leave yourself extra time to reach your destination so you don't feel pressured to rush. Speed is one of the biggest causes of motor accidents. Stay alert — you may be completely confident in your skills, but always remember that the other drivers may not.

NEWS CANADA

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Maintenance. Keep your motor running

Automotive engines like to operate in the Goldilocks zone — not too hot and not too cold.

Life in Canada, however, is rarely that obliging. That's why proper maintenance of your vehicle's cooling system is very important.

"An antifreeze/coolant protects the engine from boiling over in the summer and from freezing up in the winter," said Jay Buckley, an ASE-certified master mechanic and technical training manager for Fram Group. "It also helps fight corrosion inside the cooling system to prolong engine life."

As winter approaches, a service professional should check your engine's antifreeze/coolant condition and freeze protection. If required, the entire system should be drained and flushed to ensure that all depleted coolant and corrosive particles are removed, before adding new antifreeze/coolant.

"There are several common misconceptions about this service," Buckley said. "Including the use of full-strength antifreeze/coolant and selecting the right 'colour' product."

Engine protection

"An antifreeze/coolant protects the engine from boiling over in the summer and from freezing up in the winter."

Jay Buckley, an ASE-certified master mechanic

Virtually all new cars come with a 50/50 mixture of distilled water and antifreeze/coolant, Buckley explains. This offers protection down to about –37 C. For truly severe winter weather, a mixture up to 70/30 can be used, which brings the freezing point down to –64 C. Anything beyond 70 per cent strength is counterproductive, he points out. Use of distilled or even deionized water is important, since the minerals in tap water can contaminate the fluid and compromise its performance.

The colour of the product — green, blue or orange — is supposed to indicate whether it's an ethylene-glycol, propylene-glycol or glycerin-based fluid.

"This is really confusing to the layperson, but it doesn't have to be," Buckley said.

NEWS CANADA

One winter driving tip is to remember to check tire air pressure frequently, as it decreases in cold weather. NEWS CANADA

Give yourself more time and slow down

Preparation. Winter conditions place extra demands on vehicles and driving skills

Canadian winters are challenging, to say the least — especially if you are a motorist. Weather conditions can be unpredictable, placing extra demands on our vehicles and driving skills.

These simple tips will help Canadian motorists prepare for the months of often hazardous conditions that lie ahead.

"The first step in safe winter driving is to give yourself more time and slow down," said Mauro Convertini, insurance expert at Aviva Canada. "Most winter collisions occur when drivers do not allow for enough time or distance to brake effectively."

Convertini offers these additional tips:

- Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you in case you have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.
- Get your vehicle winter-ready with a maintenance checkup.
- Make sure you have sufficient windshield washer fluid in the reservoir and keep an extra jug in the vehicle.
- Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, mirrors, and the roof.
- Install winter tires before winter begins. Winter tires are often not available later in the season. If re-using tires check them to see if it is time to replace them.
- Remember to check tire air pressure frequently, as it decreases in cold weather.
- Prepare a winter survival kit for your vehicle. Having essential supplies can provide some comfort and safety for you and your passengers should you become stranded.

NEWS CANADA

Concerned about your car making it through the coming Winter?

Here's Help!!

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EHC Biel's Tyler Seguin takes the ice for a game against the Rapperswil-Jona Lakers on Sept. 29 in Biel, Switzerland.

PETER SCHNEIDER/KEYSTONE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seguin finds next gear in Switzerland

Hockey. Locked-out forward taking game to new level overseas

It is awfully hard to miss Tyler Seguin these days.

Not only is the locked-out NHL forward tearing up the Swiss hockey league, he's doing it in style. Seguin stands out among his EHC Biel teammates on the ice because of the bright yellow helmet he wears — an honour bestowed on the top-scoring player for each team in Switzerland.

The 20-year-old has been an offensive force with 20 goals in 20 games, making him the most productive NHLer plying his trade in a league that includes Jason Spezza, Joe Thornton, Rick Nash, John Tavares and Logan Couture, among others.

In fact, Seguin has even managed to exceed his own expectations so far.

"I had no idea what to expect when I came to Switzerland," he told the Tages-Anzeiger newspaper recently. "The league is very competitive — the speed and the talent level of the players has surprised me. It took me some time and effort to get used to it."

The trip abroad has also come with new opportunities. After seasons of 22 and 67 points with the Boston Bruins, it was reasonable to expect that Seguin would have made another leap forward during his third year in the NHL.

However, he likely wouldn't have been relied upon by Boston as much as he is in Biel, where he's been used in virtually every situation. Over the weekend against Bern, he blocked a shot while killing a penalty and scored on a short-handed breakaway.

Seguin has seen limited penalty-kill action in the NHL and made reference to his new role on Twitter on Monday: "Got a short handed goal the other night. Wonder if @NHLBruins will see it. #blockshots"

Seguin was one of the first players to sign in Europe once the work stoppage came into effect back in September. Asked by Swiss journalists recently why he chose Biel, he replied: "I just wanted to play hockey." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Scoring goals is never easy; I didn't do very well at the beginning. Now I just hope to continue playing well like I have been lately."

EHC Biel forward Tyler Seguin

By the numbers

3

Tyler Seguin has scored three hat tricks in his first 20 games with EHC Biel.

Elsewhere in Europe

Patrik Berglund

Vasteras (Sweden): Berglund is giving his hometown team more than its money's worth. The St. Louis Blues centre chose to play for free in an effort to give back to the organization that helped him reach the NHL. Berglund has 16 goals and 25 points in 20 games.

Jaromir Jagr

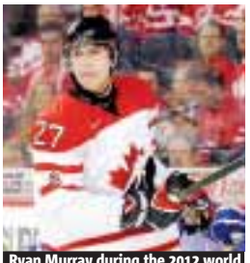
HC Kladno (Czech Republic): Is there anything the 40-year-old can't do? Already the owner and president of his hometown team, Jagr is also its leading scorer with 36 points in 22 games. That is the highest total of any locked-out NHLer currently in Europe.

Paul Bissonnette

Cardiff Devils (Great Britain): Known primarily as a fighter with the Phoenix Coyotes, Bissonnette is an offensive star a few rungs below the NHL in Cardiff, where he put up six goals and 16 points in his first seven games. Surprisingly, the six-foot-three heavyweight has yet to drop his gloves and fight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regina's Murray shelved for season with hurt shoulder



Ryan Murray during the 2012 world junior championship in Calgary.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Regina's Ryan Murray is expected to miss the rest of the season with a shoulder injury, delivering a blow to Canada's world junior team.

The 19-year-old Everett Silvertips captain suffered a torn labrum in his left shoulder after taking a hit while playing Victoria on Nov. 16. On Tuesday, it was revealed the injury will require surgery that will sideline Murray for six months.

The defenceman was the second overall pick of the Columbus Blue Jackets earlier this year and was expected to challenge for a spot on the NHL team as soon as the lockout ended.

He had two goals and 17 points in 23 games for the Silvertips this season.

Murray represented Canada at last year's world junior championship and would likely have been a key member of the team that competes in Ufa, Russia, next month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos host rare championship parade in Toronto

Chad Owens danced onstage with his young son while Jalil Carter rode shirtless in the back of a pickup truck sipping from a Tim Hortons cup, and Adriano Belli planted a smooch on Toronto's embattled mayor.

Cornerback Evan McCollough arrived late, running to catch up to the parade at Yonge Street.

The Argonauts and their fans celebrated a rare treat Tuesday — a championship party in their own backyard.

And all the crazy antics culminated with the common refrain of "Repeat!" from a CFL team and its fans that could certainly get used to winning.

"All the ups, the downs, the stretches we went through, when we lost five out of six games, just knowing that we stuck together, persevered through and never lost sight of our dream and our goal and we made it through," said Owens, the slotback who won the league's most outstanding player award this season.

"It's so special. The 100th Grey Cup. In our city. Never going to forget that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buying your first car is one of life's most important purchases, so make sure you make the right choice. HANDOUT

Think you're ready to buy? Choose your first car with care

Price out your options. Avoid a hurried purchase and weigh up whether a rental or permanent buy is your best option heading into the future

EMMA GODMERE
Drive@metronews.ca

Just picture it: It's been a long time coming, but you're in your first car with nothing in front of you but the open road.

Purchasing your first car is likely one of the biggest purchases you're ever going to make, second only to buying your first home. But before you start to shop around for your dream car, there are several things to consider. Should you go for new or used? And is it smarter to buy or lease? Different options are going to work for different people, advises Silvana Aceto, spokesperson for CAA South Central Ontario.

"Look at how often you're going to be using this vehicle and how far you're going to be driving," she says. If you're planning on driving long distances regularly, you may want to consider buying to sidestep mileage restrictions that come with leasing.

On the other hand, leasing means lower monthly payments and the opportunity to trade in for a new model every three or four years. Aceto recommends making the effort to price out your options. Many car companies have online tools that will help illustrate the cost differences between leasing and buying their vehicles.

Resources such as the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada and Consumer Reports also offer more information about makes and models as you figure out which kind of car will best fit your lifestyle, while the Canadian Black Book is an ideal guide for anyone considering used cars.

There are key pros and cons involved in purchasing a used vehicle. "You have to consider that you could be buying someone else's problems," warns Aceto. New cars, however, will likely require fewer repairs in the first few years of ownership and are also supported by manufacturer's warranties. But buying used might be easier on your wallet. "Typically, you pay less to insure a used vehicle as opposed to a brand new vehicle," she says.

Ultimately, when it comes to shopping for insurance and finding your ideal car, extensive research is your best friend.

"There is homework and legwork involved, but it will pay off in the end," says Aceto. "Take your time, this is an expensive purchase, and you do not want it to be an impulse buy."

Start sharing

Life questions. This is the third in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

- **Question.** Do you remember your first car or are you planning on buying your first one? Maybe you have some tips.
- **Share.** Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

Smart steps to take before you buy

- **Talk to family and friends.** Chances are, they're car owners too and will be able to recommend models and dealers they've used in the past.
- **Check your credit history.** New car owners will likely require loans to support their purchase. Doing your own credit check before you visit dealerships ensures your credit score won't dip from running too many inquiries on your credit report.
- **Take a test drive.** Once you have your choices narrowed down to a few cars, take them out for a spin. "Make sure that you take the vehicle out for 30 to 40 minutes on routes that you would normally drive," Aceto suggests.

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The best time to buy is nigh

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Pick a time from the options below and head to your nearest dealer for a bargain. HANDOUT

What do you call a car that turns left when you steer right and vice versa?

A Dislexus.

When it comes to telling a joke, even a bad one like the above, you have to be cognizant of timing. Same for buying a new vehicle. There are really no bad times to buy, but there are certain times of the year, month, and week, when some factors are definitely working in your favour. Let's have a look…

End of Year

Two factors work in your favour at the end of the year. Automakers and dealerships want to clear out current-year models to make room for next-year models. Dealerships receive substantial per-car rebates from their respective automakers when they attain certain yearly sales levels. (These rebates are unadvertised and go directly to the dealer.)

We're at the end of the year now. You've no doubt seen the adverts about how much money you can save by buying a 2012 model while supplies last.

Radek Garbowski of the online buying service Unhaggle.com, figures that the 2012 close-out activity is even more frenetic than in previous years: "Manufacturers are looking to drive sales records after rebounding from a few years of slowdown."

Garbowski adds that year-end incentives are even juicier when a manufacturer is set to replace a model with a totally revised one. Case in point is the 2012 Mazda6, which can currently be had with a $7,000 cash incentive.

The all-new 2014 Mazda6 is set to debut later this week at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

According to Garbowski, the heightened competition for year-end customers is felt by the individual dealerships, which are then prepared to offer even more discounts. He notes Unhaggle clients typically can save an extra $1,000 or more, above and beyond the incentives.

End of Month

Dealerships are very "monthly" focused when it comes to sales quotas, for the store and for individual salespeople. Sometimes managers and salespeople receive bonuses for reaching or exceeding those quotas. So salespeople and their managers are often never as motivated to seal a deal as they are in the last few days of the month.

But there is a caveat. Incentives change month to month.

When they are high, like they are this November, the longer you wait in the month the more you risk being caught out. This is particularly a factor at year-end, when there is a limited supply of those 2012 incentive-eligible vehicles. If you shop earlier in the month, you avoid the risk and get better selection.

End of Week

If dealerships throw on promotions, they typically do so on weekends and on the following Monday, when they might stay open later. Sales managers and salespeople often get psyched up to sell in these festive atmospheres, especially if they have some kind of friendly or monetary competition going on between the sales staff.

Might as well take advantage of their jazzed up mood, especially if they've got party favours on hand, like free coffee and Timbits. Hey, every little bit helps.

Top November incentives

1. 2012 Acura MDX: up to $9,000
2. 2013 Dodge Caravan: up to $8,100
3. 2012 Mazda6: $7,000
4. 2012 BMW 3 Series: up to $5,000
5. 2112 Nissan Sentra: up to $4,750
6. 2012 Toyota Rav4: up to $4,000

- **Source: Unhaggle.com.** Excludes high-end luxury models.

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Towing the safety line

Driving Force.

Having the right hitch and not overloading can prevent towing accidents

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Tips

- **Load warning.** Overloading your vehicle with cargo or a trailer can prematurely wear the brakes, suspension and transmission.
- **The lights are on.** Always ensure the trailer's lights and signals are working properly so drivers behind know when you're stopping or turning.

Check with an expert before buying and towing your trailer . HANDOUT

Towing is a common activity, but a huge number of people aren't doing it correctly. If you're not, you're risking your safety and that of other road users, and putting unnecessary wear and tear on your vehicle.

"Most people towing a trailer have no idea of how well it can tow when it's set up properly," says hitch expert Andy Thomson, president of Can-Am RV Centre in London, Ont.

"The hitches they're using might be rated for the trailer they're towing, but if they're not strong enough to transfer the weight to the front wheels of the vehicle, you don't get a stable towing experience.

"You get blown around by crosswinds, and you might not have a lot of control if you have to make an emergency manoeuvre to avoid something.

"Putting weight on the front tires makes the vehicle stable because you're not overloading the rear suspension, and the trailer and vehicle act as one."

The trailer's weight is a factor, but people tend to overemphasize it, Thomson says.

"There are things that are a lot more important, such as the aerodynamic drag of the car and trailer. A trailer may only weigh 4,000 pounds, but if it's built like a shoebox, it's going to be very hard to tow.

"You have to look at the balance of the trailer, the type of suspension it has,

"If it has a long or short overhang, and if it's got the correct hitch weight, which will be 10 to 15 per cent of the weight of the trailer."

Many trucks and SUVs come with "tall" tires (a larger sidewall) because they give a smoother ride, but they can exhibit considerable lateral movement, a condition known as "squirminess."

Switching to a lower-profile tire on the vehicle, and sometimes on the trailer, can make towing easier.

Asking a professional is always best, Thomson says, no matter what size your trailer is.

"Almost all trailer accidents resulting in serious injury or deaths have been utility trailers," he says.

"Someone buying a $25,000 RV has a big investment and he makes sure. But if someone buys a utility trailer, overloads it, doesn't have an adequate hitch and it comes off, that's what causes the problem."

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will get plenty of advice over the next 24 hours, some of it good and some of it bad. How do you know which is which? By listening not to other people but to your own inner voice. It knows all the answers.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The more you feel the need to prove yourself, the more care you must take when dealing with people whose opinions may be very different to your own. Say the wrong thing and it could impact you financially.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Even if you are one of those rare Geminis who tries to avoid the limelight, all your instincts are telling you to put yourself out there and get noticed. Do something out of the ordinary, something that makes a lasting impression.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There seems to be a lot of resentment in your mind but there is no point being angry with people for what they have said because they can't un-say it. It's up to you to put it behind you. Move on.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will say something that is less than positive about a friend today but there is no need to feel guilty about it because it's the truth. A few choice words are just what they need to set them straight.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You don't have to be ruthless but the Lunar Eclipse warns you do have to protect your interests. Someone who envies your success will try to undermine you today. You know who they are. Deal with them severely.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Tell the truth as you see it today, even if you know it is likely to offend someone you are fond of. It is important that they can see things from an alternative point of view. Without it they'll make a huge mistake.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
The planets warn that anyone who approaches you with a money-making idea over the next 24 hours is not to be trusted. The more enticing it sounds the more likely it is you will lose your investment. Give it a miss.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It's not easy to turn the other cheek when someone hurts you but you would be wise to today. If you get drawn into a dispute it will escalate quicker than you expected, so give revenge a miss.

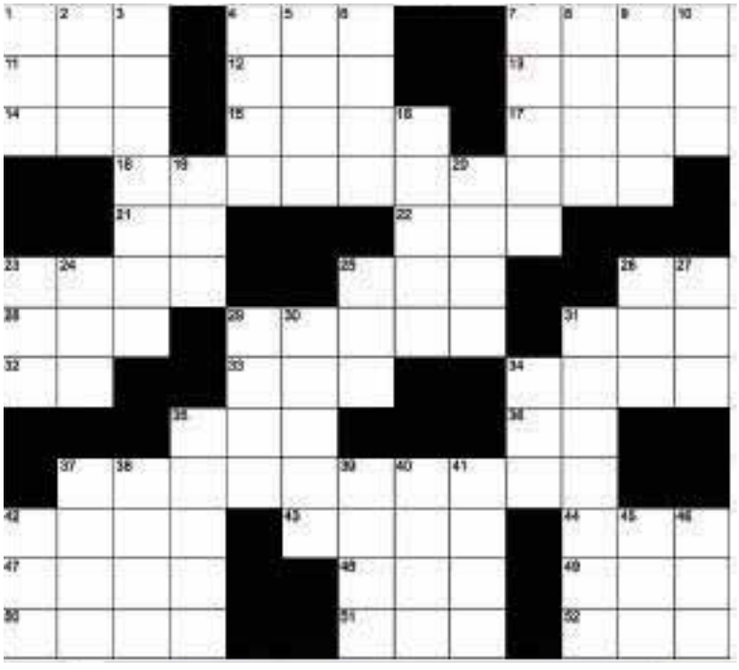
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Avoid getting involved in anything that others might see as deceptive or crooked. Facts often mean less than impressions, so don't let people get the impression that you are up to no good.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are on the right side and nothing anyone can say is going to change your mind. That's fine but be aware that too rigid an outlook limits true understanding. Being right isn't everything.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you don't feel up to going out with your friends, just let them know you need some time to yourself. The Lunar Eclipse makes this the kind of day when you want to hunker down and stay inside your own four walls. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Angry
4. Fishing need
7. Charmed actress McGowan
11. Spring month (abbr.)
12. Desperate Housewives star Longoria
13. Role for Hal Holbrook in Evening Shade
14. Average grade
15. Flying (prefix)
17. Transmit
18. Filling out an envelope
21. Just Shoot —
22. Preserve fruit
23. Baldwin of 30 Rock
25. The Joy Luck Club author
26. Post script (abbr.)
28. According to
29. Dole out
31. Ocean
32. Baronet
33. In tune with the latest fashion
34. Ollie's partner
35. Found on the farm
36. Night time medical drama
37. Clean our teeth with this
42. Abuse
43. Without
44. Exclamation of surprise
47. Sword
48. Author of "The Raven"
49. Mate for woman
50. Barracks food hall
51. Saturday late night skit show (abbr.)
52. Pig's abode

Down
1. Apple computer
2. Mimic
3. Romanticist
4. Peruse
5. — and above
6. Truth or —
7. Saran
8. Baking need
9. "I Never — for My Father"
10. Halt
16. Fashion designer: —- de la Renta
19. Christmas mo.
20. Perfectly coherent
23. NYPD Blue notice (abbr.)
24. Allow
25. Knock lightly
26. Small green veggie
27. The Streets of — Francisco
29. Take a stab at
30. —- and lows
31. Brooks
34. Lay down
35. Holmes on —-
37. Pre-record
38. Minerals
39. Gladys Knight & the —
40. Soon
41. Stitch up
42. Alter a skirt or dress
45. The Cat in the —
46. "— Given Sunday"
54. Neighbour of ND

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5		7	6				9	
			1	8		2		
2					4			
8							5	7
1		5				6		4
3	9							2
			8					6
		4		2	1			
	5				3	7		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

Sharability

easy — hard

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